

Vol. 3—No. 24 401

RWDSU

record

December 23, 1956



SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS

RWDSU Members Sharing Holiday Joy with Hungarian Refugees

— See Page 3

Season's Greetings

from the officers and staff of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union to all members and their families.
May the coming year bring peace and happiness to all.

Wide-Scale Organization Seen as Pressing Need

'White Collar' Problems Aired

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Nearly 150 union representatives, including Executive Vice-Presidents Alex Bail and Sam Kovenetsky and Vice-Pres. Bill Michelson of the RWDSU, participated in a two-day conference on problems of the white-collar worker. The meeting, held Dec. 13 and 14, was under the auspices of the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department.

The union leaders present heard AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. William F. Schnitzler, IUD Pres. Walter P. Reuther, Sec.-Treas. James B. Carey, AFL-CIO Organization Dir. John W. Livingston, AFL-CIO Research Dir. Stanley Ruttenberg and other speakers discuss various aspects of the white-collar worker's situation in the American economy. Pres. George Meany was the wind-up speaker at the last session of the conference. He noted that many white-collar workers receive substandard wages, and termed this a "menace and a threat."

Meany and the other speakers agreed that the primary need of white-collar workers is union organization. The way

to organize them was discussed by Reuther, who noted that these workers have different problems, different needs and a different outlook from those of other workers. He stressed his belief that the entire labor movement should help a white-collar organizing drive with men and money "as we (the industrial unions) were helped 20 years ago."

Reuther said that the basic problems of the nation's 17 million white-collar workers ranked in the following order: low salaries; improper classification within an inadequate salary structure; favoritism in promotions; pay differentials based on sex; lack of seniority safeguards; and lack of grievance procedures.

On organizing progress that can be ex-

pected, John Livingston said, "We may not make the spectacular advances in a short period of time such as marked the break-through into mass-production industry. But we are on the move."

Livingston said the labor movement had "resources at our command far beyond anything heretofore at our disposal." He added, "The labor movement is at its highest in membership, in organizational resources, in organizational know-how. From the vantage point of our current strength and experience we are able to analyze the problem posed to us by the challenge of the white-collar field as no earlier labor movement could. We can anticipate the major hazards and plan to avoid them."



ADMIRING her handiwork, beautifully-decorated Christmas tree in lobby of RWDSU offices, is switchboard operator Josephine Sicuranza. The tree expresses spirit of Yule season for union staff and many visitors to headquarters.

in
this
issue:

NOTICE TO READERS

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rwdsu RECORD

First \$1,000 check turned into RWDSU Refugee Relief Fund represents joint contribution of workers and management at Delicia Candy Co., where Xmas party was sacrificed to provide donation. L. to r., Chief Steward Charles Voit, Local 50 Pres. Frank Scida, Pres. Max Greenberg and company Vice-Pres. Oskar Schenker.



Locals Answer RWDSU Refugee Relief Call

Industry drive kicked off by Local 50 Pres. Frank Scida among N. Y. candy firms got ready response from employers. L. to r., front row, Pierre Merkel of Heide, Joseph Klein, Jr. of Phoenix, Martin Frank of Tell Chocolate, Scida, August Libassi of Loft Candy, Mel Stillman of Chunkies and Andrew Heide. In rear are John Barrett and F. Barry Haskett of Pecher Lozenge, Harry Klein of Phoenix and union attorneys Leon Reich and Herman Perlmutter, who also contributed.



Toy for Hungarian refugee child is presented in person by District 65 Pres. David Livingston. Several hundred toys refurbished and wrapped by retired union members were presented to kids at United-HIAS shelter in New York where they are staying.

RALLYING to the cause of aid for Hungarian refugees with the same heartwarming enthusiasm they have displayed in other union campaigns, RWDSU members throughout the nation are responding generously to the International Union's Refugee Relief Fund drive. Pres. Max Greenberg expressed his gratification with "the prompt and wholehearted support" being given by locals to his appeal for funds to aid refugees from Communist oppression.

The campaign, set off at a meeting of RWDSU officers and New York leaders at the International's offices Nov. 29, has already yielded important results, particularly in the New York area where the drive got under way first.

Local 50, led by Pres. Frank Scida, is setting the pace with \$1,000 already turned in and considerably more to come. The 150 workers of Delicia Candy Co., members of Local 50, voted unanimously to give up their annual Christmas party and ask their employer to turn over the funds to the union drive. Company vice-president Oskar Schenker estimated that the party would have cost \$600 to \$700. For good measure, the firm added its bit and made out the check for an even \$1,000. Mr. Schenker, Scida, and Chief Steward Charles Voit presented the donation Dec. 14 to Pres. Greenberg. Later that same day, Scida reported, a meeting of Local 50's employers brought added endorsement of the relief campaign, and pledges and checks totaling an additional \$1,500.

Other early contributions to the Refugee Relief Fund came from Locals 670, 906 and 1199 in New York City, Local 143 in Buffalo, and Local 209 in Rochester, N. Y. Pledges of contributions to come soon have poured in from all over the country.

An appeal for a highly specialized form of assistance to women refugees was answered by quick

action by two New York locals. Reports from Camp Kilmer, N. J., where refugees are received, indicated that women arriving there were in desperate need of pajamas and underclothing. Pres. N. Jerome Kaplan of Local 1102 and Pres. Louis Feldstein of Local 1125, whose members are employed in drygoods and women's apparel stores, quickly volunteered to solicit contributions of underwear from employers in the industry. Plans are now underway to present these to agencies caring for the refugees.

Another heartwarming gesture came from District 65, in New York, whose retired members' group turned over hundreds of toys they had repaired to children of Hungarian refugees Dec. 18 at United-HIAS, one of the major groups sponsoring the refugees here. In addition, District 65ers are raising funds to aid the refugees.

The RWDSU campaign aims to achieve these three objectives:

1. To raise funds for Hungarian victims of Soviet aggression. Part will go to Europe to provide relief there; the balance will be distributed through those organizations which are responsible for refugees arriving in the U. S.

2. To provide jobs in RWDSU shops for Hungarian refugees. All requests for placement by the respective Protestant, Catholic or Jewish agency are being channeled through the International office, and the appropriate local is then contacted to aid in finding a job for which the particular person is best suited.

3. To help find housing, temporary or permanent, for refugee families. In many respects, this is the most difficult task, and all locals are being urged to conduct surveys among their members and in their communities to discover housing which may be used by refugees.

LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

Compiled from news releases of AFL-CIO News Service, Press Associates-PAI, and the Canadian Coop. Press Assn.

Labor-Won Pay Boosts Higher in '56 Than '55

WASHINGTON (PAI) — Almost 3,750,000 American workers got wage boosts during the first nine months of 1956 as a result of 854 major collective bargaining agreements reached by their unions. Only 36,000 workers, or one percent, failed to get any increase as compared with 3,731,000 who won increases.

In addition, three out of every four agreements, covering 3,300,000 workers, included more liberal fringe benefits such as health and welfare plans, paid vacations, holidays and pensions.

Based on a survey by the Department of Labor, wage boosts tended to be larger during the first nine months of 1956 than during a similar period in 1955. Increases of 9 cents or more an hour were provided in agreements affecting three out of four workers covered. The largest group of workers affected—1,283,000—got wage boosts between nine and eleven cents an hour.

Here is how the 1956 wage agreement picture shaped up:

No wage boost	36,000
Under 5 cents	36,000
5 and under 7 cents	320,000
7 and under 9 cents	441,000
9 and under 11 cents	1,283,000
11 and under 13 cents	773,000
13 and under 15 cents	239,000
15 and under 17 cents	154,000
17 and under 19 cents	120,000
19 cents and over	235,000

There were no decreases in wages in any of the agreements reached.

New NLRB Office in Florida

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The National Labor Relations Board has announced that a new regional office will be established Jan. 2, at Tampa, to serve the state of Florida. A heavy increase in Florida cases caused the move.

The new office will serve an area comprised of all of Florida except 12 northwestern counties, and it will be known as NLRB Region 12. The office will be located at 112 East Cass Street, Tampa 2, Florida. Cases in the area of Florida embraced by the new Region formerly were handled by the Board's Tenth Regional Office at Atlanta, Ga. Cases arising in the 12 northwestern Florida counties will continue to be handled by the NLRB Regional office at New Orleans, La.

The new office was established to give improved service to the Florida area and to reduce time and expense consumed in traveling, both of which have become increasingly important items during recent years as a result of a substantial increase in the number of Board cases arising in this area.



UNION LABEL QUEEN Josephine Marino, Union Label Queen of Newark, and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, points out the sign that proclaimed the busiest spot in Newark, N. J., the intersection of Broad and Market Streets, Union Label Square, during her week's reign.

Defends Teachers Organizing

NEW YORK (PAI)—A top expert on public school law has staunchly upheld the right of teachers to form unions and to strike "under certain circumstances."

James P. Gifford, an associate professor of law at Columbia University, in a statement to public school administrators from New York and New Jersey attending a conference on school laws at Teachers College, Columbia University, declared that teachers have "no alternative" to organized action if they are to gain better working conditions. He also supported the right of teachers to strike when they are "confronted with a breach of agreement or refusal to negotiate" by public administrators.

Reuther Challenges NAM On Inflation Causes

DETROIT — The president of the United Auto Workers has challenged the new chief of the National Association of Manufacturers to join in urging a congressional investigation of the sources of inflation.

In a sharp letter to Ernest G. Swigert, president of the NAM, Walter Reuther slapped down allegations by the "NAM News" that wage increases are the reason for inflation.

"On November 28," the Reuther letter declared, "I wrote President Eisenhower urging him to call for and support a searching congressional investigation into wage-price-profit relationships in the auto, steel and meat packing industries and other industries whose policies exert a decisive influence on the American economy."

"Such an investigation would give the public the facts as to who is and who is not responsible for the current inflationary spiral," the UAW leader asserted, "and would pave the way for appropriate action to halt inflation."

Reuther pointed out that NAM support for such an investigation would practically assure that it would be made. He called on Swigert to put the issue before the delegates attending the NAM's "Congress of American Industry" in New York.

Oil Union Wants 27c Hike

DENVER—The nation's oil industry will face a demand for a 27-cent wage increase by members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union as the next round of oil negotiations gets under way.

This decision, sent to locals by the union's 52-member bargaining policy committee, is based on the industry's "fantastic and constant increase in profits," according to the committee's statement.

The committee called for bargaining to begin as soon as possible, and urged affiliated units to seek "substantial" fringe increases as well.

Directly affected by the program are about 105,000 members of the 200,000-member union. Other oil workers, not covered by union contracts, will be indirectly affected since traditionally they obtain the same wage increases negotiated by the union.

The committee, in justifying the husky wage demand, cited the continuing rise in the cost of living, the increase in productivity on the part of the economy as a whole and the industry as well, and the wage and fringe benefit improvements being won by other unions.

what's new in our industry

Allied Stores' net profit showed a decline of 7.2% for the first nine months of this year. Sales however, showed slight gain in this period . . . S. Klein Department Stores reports sales for the fiscal year ended July 28, 1956 of \$77,873,258. Net income for the same period was \$1,056,734 . . . Stern Bros. and the New York Savings Bank—the Rockefeller Center branch—collaborated on a joint Christmas promotion in which merchandise could be ordered at the bank . . . Earnings and sales sharply higher than last year were reported by the May Department Stores for the three months ended Oct. 31 . . . E. H. Macy's, for the 52 weeks ended Oct. 27, 1956, total net retail sales amounted to \$410,200,000 as compared with \$382,932,000 for the comparable previous period . . . L. Bamberger, a subsidiary of Macy's, will build its eighth unit in the proposed Menlo Park Shopping Center in Edison Township, N. J. . . . Lane Bryant and its subsidiaries achieved record earnings and sales in the nine months ended Oct. 31 . . . Gertz Department Store in Hicksville,

L. I. has slashed prices to meet those of the local competitive discount houses and has stocked specific items because the latter had them and Gertz didn't. According to Ralph F. Waltz, president of Gertz, "Discount house competition should be met head on by department stores, with price matching price."

France has her first discount house, "Studio Wagram". The owner, M. Maurice Gattegno, has been dubbed Monsieur 20 Percent, and his decision to cut list prices is causing a storm in France. Unlike the U. S., where manufacturers have sued discounters to protect fixed prices, Studio Wagram in Paris is suing the big electrical appliance firm, Thomson-Houston, for refusing to sell. The suit has great significance to France's economy. Traditionally, according to article in December Harper's magazine, French merchants have resisted competition, content with limited sales and high prices. Monsieur 20 Percent argues that competition and low prices can sub-

stantially increase sales, lead to greater production and a sounder economy. P.S.—One of the main points in Thomson-Houston's defense is that Monsieur 20 Percent is divorced. Harper's points out that by this standard French manufacturers could refuse to sell to at least half of their present clients.

The latest thing in premiums comes from San Antonio, Texas. A service station operator is now offering a 3 cents United States postage stamp with every \$1 purchase. He feels they are "a whole lot better than trading stamps cause you can use a postage stamp any old time you want to mail a letter." . . . At the last count, there were 3,100,000 vending machines on location in the United States, an increase of 43% over 1950 . . . Sunkist Growers had no trouble in squeezing out \$188 million in sales of citrus fruits in the 1955-56 crop year . . . Retail toy sales this year will reach a record breaking \$1,417,000,000 according to Gilbert G. Southwick, retiring president of the Toy

Manufacturing Assn. of the U.S.A. . . . Standard Brands and General Foods announced a 3-cent-a-pound wholesale price reduction on their major vacuum-packed coffees.

National Shoes attained the highest sales and income in the company's history for the fiscal year ended July 28, 1956 . . . F. W. Woolworth sales for November increased 7% compared with the same month of a year ago. The latest addition to the Woolworth chain is a 14,000 sq. ft. unit in Meadville, Pa. . . . Prices in the spring-summer catalog of the nation's leading mail order houses are expected to increase an average of 3 to 3.5% over last spring . . . Montgomery Ward will add 27,000 sq. ft. of selling space to its branch in Oakland, Calif. The unit, now the largest on the West coast, has 92,000 sq. ft. of selling space . . . Biggest sales since February were reported by Sears, Roebuck for the month of November. Gross sales were \$362,433,114.

—Compiled by Rosemarie DaSilva

'305' Sweeps Upstate N. Y. Miles Vote

MT. VERNON, N. Y.—In one of the widest-ranging organizing campaigns of recent years, the employees of 17 Miles Shoe stores in 15 cities of upper New York State joined Local 305 of the RWDSU and this month voted unanimously for the union in a National Labor Relations Board election, '305' Business Agent George Surtes announced.

Because of the long distances involved—with stores located in Nyack and 300 miles away in Niagara Falls—the whole organizing team of Local 305 pitched into the campaign. Led by Pres. Harry Rosenzweig, they are Surtes and Organizers Al Milstein and Milt Kaplan.

The Miles workers, who began organizing back in June 1955, voted 26-0 for Local 305. A total of 34 workers are employed in the stores. They now await formal certification by the NLRB before negotiations for a first contract begin. Talks will be held with top Miles management in New York City.

The cities in which the stores are located are, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, Syracuse, Amsterdam, Gloversville, Glens Falls, Troy, Schenectady, Albany, Middletown, Poughkeepsie, Nyack and Newburgh.

A number of other Miles stores are organized in '305' in several Westchester County cities.

Driscoll Again Heads '224' In Springfield, Mass.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Close to 300 members of Local 224 turned out early this month for the annual election of officers, and returned three of their top leaders to office for sixth terms: Pres. George Driscoll, Recording Sec. Harriet Raeside and Sec.-Treas. M. Joseph Donahue.

Roy Lyndon was elected vice-president. Joseph Tighe won the post of sergeant-at-arms. Trustees are John Mahoney, Edward McGovern and Anthony Zyburia. Members of the grievance and negotiating committee are William Allen and John Vico.

The members of Local 224 work at the Milton Bradley educational toy and game plant.

Sentences Suspended in Phone Jamming Case

NEW YORK CITY.—Two officials of Local 1199, Division Director George Glotzer and Hiring Hall Director Henry Plotnick, received suspended sentences from Magistrates Court Judge John A. Mullen on December 7 on charges of violating a state law making it illegal to jam telephone lines of a business establishment. The charges, to which both Glotzer and Plotnick had pleaded guilty, were an outgrowth of a prolonged strike at the Caswell Massey Pharmacy in Manhattan.

A third case, against '1199' Pres. Leon Davis, was discharged "on recognition," a legal term whose effect is to drop the charges.

Attorneys representing Local 1199 and the RWDSU made statements to Judge Mullen attesting to the integrity of the local union and the officials involved. Earlier, letters urging leniency in the case had been submitted to Judge Mullen by numerous labor leaders, including RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg.

The union has announced termination of the strike at Caswell Massey Pharmacy. The decision to call off the picketline followed a unanimous recommendation of the seven striking members.

1,000 in N. Y. Chain Shoe Stores Win \$5 and \$7 Wage Increases

NEW YORK CITY—Locals 1268 and 287 won a new contract in joint negotiations with 8 shoe chains this month, covering more than 1,000 RWDSUers in stores throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island. The 3-year pact calls for wage increases of \$7 for salesmen and \$5 for non-selling employees, as well as substantial gains in vacations, employer payments to the welfare plan and other conditions.

The negotiating committees were led by Business Managers Sam Lowenthal of '287' and Joseph Binenbaum of '1268'. The chains involved in the settlement are Miles, National, Simco, Kitty Kelly, Norwood, Empire, Cammeyer, and Fields Shoe stores.

Meanwhile, negotiations were under way with chains and independents employing an additional 3,000 members of the two locals. Group talks are being held with the Retail Shoe League, an association of independents and chains such as Adler, Wise, London Character and Indian Walk, while separate negotiations are proceeding with such well known chains as Father and Son, Thom McAn, A. S. Beck, Regal and others.

\$75 'Floor' on Base Pay

Lowenthal and Binenbaum emphasized that the settlement already concluded with Miles, National and the others was the floor for an agreement with the Shoe League employers. The union will nowhere settle for less than basic earnings of \$75 a week among the salesmen. A formula for stepping up commission rates in accordance with successively higher sales volume has been proposed by the employers and is being considered by the workers.

Details of the settled contract with Miles, National, Simco, Kitty Kelly and the others are as follows:

- \$3.50 weekly wage increase for salesmen retroactive to Aug. 1, 1956, plus \$3.50 effective Feb. 1, 1958; \$2.50 weekly wage increase for non-selling employees retroactive to Aug. 1, 1956, plus \$2.50 on Feb. 1, 1958.

- \$1 increase for each 8-hour day worked and 50 cents for each 4-hour day worked for extra sales and non-selling employees, to be retroactive to Aug. 1 if the employee has put in 3 full days or 3 nights and Saturdays in each of 17 weeks since Aug. 1, 1956.

- Minimum wage increased by the



RETAIL SHOE LOCAL LEADERS Joseph Binenbaum of '1268', and Sam Lowenthal of '287', who led joint negotiations with 8 shoe chains. New 3-year pact brings \$7 and \$5 wage boosts, higher employer payments to union welfare plan, plus other gains for over 1,000 in New York retail shoe stores.

same amounts as the increases.

- Beginning Aug. 1, 1958, employer payments to the health and welfare plan will increase from \$8 to \$11 a month for each employee.

- Paid vacation of one additional day for each month worked beyond 6 months, up to 2 weeks, at average earnings. The contract also provides vacations of 1 week after 6 months, 2 weeks after a year, and 3 weeks after 10 years on the job.

- Elimination of compulsory work on a sixth day during 8 weeks of the year. A minimum of 6 hours' work on a sixth day, with preference for sixth day work given to regular full time employees.

- The difference between jury duty pay and regular base pay of regular full

timers will be made up by the employer. Time lost through jury duty will be made up by employees within 4 weeks.

The increased minimums bring the present rate for non-selling employees to \$50.50 now and to \$53 on Feb. 1, 1958. New minimum base pay for salesmen is \$71.50 now and \$75 on Feb. 1, 1958. Commissions bring salesmen's earnings to an average of at least \$5,000 a year.

Local representatives on the negotiating committee were, in addition to Binenbaum and Lowenthal, Local 287 Ass't Managers Sol E. Sherman and Jack M. Maltz, and for '1268', Business Agents David Geisler and Samuel Ringle. Rank and file members were Emmett Plunkett, Maurice Jackson and Joseph Zeckina of '287', and Sol Berman, Samuel Schifter and Bernard Slott of '1268'.

Talks Covering 1,500 Open With 25 Employers

Phone Answering Gals Join RWDSU

NEW YORK CITY.—The efforts of this city's telephone answering service employees to organize into the RWDSU—efforts steadily applied for more than 2 years—are beginning to bear fruit. Some 1,500 of the "interceptors," as they are known in the industry, have won recognition of their union, RWDSU Local 780. Negotiations were opened this month with 25 employers at a session attended by about 400 members at the Hotel Martinique.

Leading the organizing campaign, and heading the negotiating committee in the contract talks is Jerry Fischer, organization director of Local 780, who took on the assignment of helping the telephone service workers to organize back in June 1954. A charter was issued then by the International Union to establish a local for the interceptors, who had approached the union for aid in bringing up low wages and poor working conditions.

The drive proceeded slowly, and this past spring began to catch fire as larger groups of the employees joined up. They elected stewards to represent the various offices, an executive council and a negotiating committee, which worked

up a set of proposals for their first contract. With the winning of recognition from a group of employers, the workers were well prepared to enter negotiations. As a mark of the employers' good faith, a stipulation was won providing that all gains agreed upon in the first contract will be retroactive to Nov. 1, 1956.

Ask 25c Hourly Raise

Among the demands are a 25-cent an-hour wage boost; minimums starting at \$1 an hour and progressing over 5 months to \$1.15 an hour; time and half for Saturday and double time for Sunday work; paid holidays and vacations; sick leave; hospitalization and life insurance; seniority, and other conditions typical of RWDSU contracts.

The employers have asked time to study the demands, and Fischer said it is ex-

pected the talks will resume around Jan. 1.

Meanwhile, Local 780's success in organizing majorities of the employees in a number of the industry's firms has drawn the attention of several other unions. An article in the New York Post last week exposed the fact that several unions are fighting to intervene in spite of the fact that RWDSU Local 780 is clearly the choice of the workers.

Fischer said the efforts of the other unions have failed. He expressed confidence that the example set by a large section of the industry's employees in joining RWDSU will be a powerful factor in encouraging other telephone answering service interceptors to do likewise.

Aiding Fischer is Int'l Rep. Dale Buckius, who has been assigned to the campaign by RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg.

\$1 Retail Minimum Order for N. Y. Imminent

NEW YORK CITY—Authoritative sources in the N.Y. State Dept. of Labor informed The Record at press time Wednesday, Dec. 19, that Industrial Commissioner Isador Lubin would issue a wage order on Friday, Dec. 21, establishing the \$1 minimum in the retail industry. This welcome Christmas present, which will directly affect more than 100,000 retail employees in the state now earning less than \$1 an hour, will go into effect on Feb. 15.

Commissioner Lubin's wage order will put into law the unanimous recommendation of a nine-member tripartite Retail Trade Minimum Wage Board, on which two RWDSU representatives—Exec. Vice-Pres. Alex Bail and Vice-Pres. Samuel Lowenthal, manager of Shoe Employees Local 287—played a key role. That recommendation will provide 25-to-35-cent boosts in the hourly minimums now in effect throughout the state.

The present minimum wage is 75 cents in New York City, 70 cents in other towns over 10,000 population as well as Nassau and West-

chester counties, and 65 cents in the rest of the state. This three-level minimum wage structure will be narrowed down to two on Feb. 15, when the first two categories come under the \$1 minimum, and the third goes to 90 cents an hour. On Jan. 1, 1958, those in the 90-cent bracket will be boosted to \$1, thus providing a single wage standard for the entire state—a principle for which the RWDSU representatives carried on a long and effective struggle.

RWDSUers Fought for New Pay Floor

Of the state's 600,000 retail workers, all but 65,000 will come under the \$1 minimum, and even these 65,000 will reach that figure in less than a year. This substantial improvement in the state's retail wage floor met with bitter opposition from employer representatives, but they were effectively answered by spokesmen for RWDSU locals, including District 65 Organization Dir. Bill Michelson, Local 338 Pres. Julius Sum and Local 1199 Pres. Leon Davis.

Retail Drug Employees Local 1199 won a victory of its own in the new wage order. The previous order provided a special exemption for pharmacist apprentices, who could thus be paid less than the New York City minimum, then 75 cents an hour. This has been eliminated in the new order, thanks to the recommendation of the Minimum Wage Board.

The work of the Board, led by Chairman Ferdinand Pecora, the former Supreme Court Justice, began back in April, when it started to assemble data on retail wages in the state. It gathered first-hand information in public hearings held in Buffalo, Binghamton, Syracuse, Albany and New York City.

In October, the Board issued its recommendation, which was unprecedented not only for its sweeping improvements but also for the fact that it was a unanimous decision—the first time in state history that a board of this kind had arrived at a proposal upon which all three groups it represented—industry, labor and public—could agree.

900 at Foster-Grant Win Pension, Raises

Big Mass. Plastics Firm Settles

LEOMINSTER, Mass.—Nine hundred employees of Foster-Grant Co., one of the country's leading manufacturers of combs, sunglasses and other plastic products, won wage increases of 5 and 7 cents an hour, a pension plan and other improvements in a new one-year agreement ratified early this month, Regional Director Thomas J. Leone announced. The wage boost for the workers, who are members of RWDSU Local 60 are retroactive to Nov. 1. The pact expires next Oct. 31.

The pension plan, the most important innovation in the contract, provides pensions of \$1 a month for each year of service up to a maximum of \$30. The minimum pension will be \$10 a month regardless of length of service, and totally disabled workers will draw pensions of \$50 a month, no matter what their age. Retirement is optional with the worker at 65 or over, and retired workers will continue to get full welfare coverage for life at company expense.

In order to start the pension fund off, the company agreed to put in an initial sum of \$136,000. Governing the pension plan is a board of 10 trustees, five from the union and an equal number representing the company.

The overall wage increase of 5 cents an hour applies to all 900 workers. In addition, 400 of the workers receive an additional 2 cents an hour, and the 5c boost also applies to piece rates.

Other gains include an additional paid holiday, to a new total of 8; a third week's vacation after 15 years service (formerly two weeks was the maximum); triple time for holiday work; and the annual outing for members and their families to be paid for by Foster-Grant instead of the union, representing an annual saving of more than \$3,000 for Local 60.

The vacation pay formula at Foster-Grant is based on average pay during the preceding nine months, with a minimum of 40 hours pay but no maximum. Last year the workers received vacation pay that averaged \$66 a week. This year, assuming the same average, workers entitled to a third week's vacation will be receiving the equivalent of an additional 3½ cents an hour raise.

The union negotiating committee was led by Leone and included the entire Local 60 executive board: Pres. Rocco Messina, Vice-Pres. Anthony Carbone, Sec.-Treas. Ralph DeCarolis, Rec. Sec. Helen Hathorne and Stewards Willard J. Losey, Clifford Kingsbury, Albert Driscoll, George Baldwin, Francis Lundigan, Charles Shunaman, Rose Hutton, Gloria Allridge, Melina Chesbrough, Madeline Lamarche, Juliet Collins, Beatrice Mar-

rone, Tom Tomassian, Amedeo Santucci and C. Arthur King.

Serving as union representatives on

the pension plan's board of trustees are Leone, Messina, Carbone, DeCarolis and Helen Hathorne.

LABOR ODDITIES

by Broudhecker



Where Are Polio Shots?

NEWARK, N. J.—Alarmed at the apparent huge supply of Salk anti-polio vaccine in the face of hundreds of thousands of unvaccinated children and adults, the New Jersey State CIO has again prodded the State Department of Health.

State CIO President Paul Krebs said that plans developed last spring for local clinics to spur immunization and for state purchase and allocation of Salk vaccine for such clinics "appear to have been abandoned or de-emphasized by the State Health Department, despite the crying need for a more intense program to wipe out infantile paralysis."

At the same time, Mrs. Annette O'Flaherty, president of the CIO Women's League of New Jersey, has written Dr. Daniel Bergsma, State Health Commissioner, asking "What plans do you have to complete the polio immunization program in New Jersey—through provision of free vaccine where funds are available and such supply would stimulate the program, and through intensive public education in the need for wide-spread immunization?"

She also asked, "What long-range plans do you have, if any, for including the polio vaccine in the overall state public health program?"

Drug Local Sets Meeting Jan. 16 On Pact Demands

NEW YORK CITY—With contracts covering 4,000 members of Local 1199 employed in some 1,500 independently operated drug stores in New York City and Long Island scheduled to expire at midnight, March 31, the union announced a special general membership meeting for Wednesday, Jan. 16.

The meeting, marking the opening of the drive for wage increases and improved standards in a new contract, will be held in two parts, morning and evening, at Manhattan Center. Another meeting for members employed in Nassau and Suffolk Counties will be held on the following day in that area.

Declaring that "our major task is to win a decent and substantial wage increase for all categories," '1199' Pres. Leon J. Davis singled out the pharmacists as a group that requires special consideration "because they are, relatively speaking, the most underpaid section in our industry."

State Labor Federation Seeks Higher Jobless Pay, Workmen's Compensation

NEW YORK CITY—Raising the workmen's compensation weekly maximum from \$35 to \$54 will be a major goal of the New York Federation of Labor, Sec.-Treas. Harold C. Hanover told a joint legislative committee on industrial and labor conditions.

He emphasized that extending the maximum period for unemployment compensation payments from 26 to 39 weeks will be another major target, noting that 54,000 New York workers exhausted their benefits during the first nine months of this year.

"For them the word 'prosperity' is a mockery," Hanover said.

The \$54 ceiling on workmen's compensation is the least the figure should be, Hanover continued, "because even that fails to provide a payment of two-thirds of the average wage for a vast number of workers in the state."

Hanover also urged a \$50 weekly maximum under both the New York disability benefits law, now paying \$40, and the unemployment insurance law, with a present \$36 ceiling. He observed that "average weekly earnings of all employees covered by the unemployment insurance law were \$84.81 in 1955 and have risen since then" and called the present laws "inadequate and obsolete."

150 Ready Strike In Chicago At Western News

CHICAGO, Ill.—Negotiations between the Chicago Joint Board of the RWDSU and Western News Co. were being held last week in the atmosphere of a possible strike by the 150 employees, who have overwhelmingly rejected the employer's offer of 5-cent wage increases in each of 2 years.

The talks were continuing last Tuesday, as The Record went to press, Joint Board Pres. Henry Anderson said, although the breaking-off point seemed not far off unless the firm budged from its wage offer, termed inadequate by the workers. The company is a subsidiary of the nationally known American News Co., distributors of books and magazines as well as certain notions sold by newsdealers.

The negotiating committee has been given a firm authorization by the members to call a strike, and preparations for a walkout have been under way for more than a week. The firm has met some of the other demands of the workers, including raises in minimums, funeral leave, and has indicated a willingness to discuss a paid sick leave schedule.

Furniture Mart Settles

Elsewhere in the Joint Board, 30 American Furniture Mart workers accepted an improved offer of the company after having voted to strike. The settlement provides wage increases of 5½ cents an hour, improved holiday pay, and time and a half pay for Saturday work as such. The new minimums as a result of the raises are \$2.05 an hour for general helpers and \$2.15 an hour for receiving room employees, effective after 90 days.

Meanwhile, steady progress was being recorded at Farley Candy, where the union is conducting a renewed organizing drive among the 150 employees. The current campaign is a renewal of several efforts made during the past year to organize the hard candy and gum drop firm. The company is just over a year old.

Convention to Celebrate 10th Year of Chi. Jr. Bd.

CHICAGO, Ill.—Preparations are under way for the 5th Biennial Convention of the Chicago Joint Board of RWDSU, to be held Jan. 20 at the Morrison Hotel in this city, Joint Board Pres. Henry Anderson reported.

The Convention, with an expected attendance of 100 delegates, will mark the 10th year of the Joint Board, and plans call for celebrating the event at the one-day gathering with entertainment and a banquet. It is also expected that the Convention will honor the founders of the Joint Board.

Featured speakers planned for the event include RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg, Sec.-Treas. Al Heaps, and AFL-CIO Regional Dir. Gene Moats.

3 Weeks' Pay Awarded Widow of Campbell's Member

Vacation 'Earned Right,' Arbiter Rules

CHICAGO, Ill.—Vacations are an earned right for past service, and vacation benefits should therefore be paid to the family of a member even if he dies before he is technically eligible to collect them. This long-held union principle was firmly established at the Campbell's Soup plant this month by Local 194 through an arbitration

Talks Open in Ottawa With Luminous Firm

OTTAWA, Ill.—Negotiations on a new contract between Local 970 and management of Luminous Processing were scheduled to open last week, as The Record went to press, '970' Pres. Shirley Ludwig reported.

The 30 employees seek substantial wage increases, vacation improvements, a paid sick leave program, and a health plan, among other improvements.

December 23, 1956

200 in McKeesport, Pa. Warehouse Gain 22c

First G. C. Murphy Contract Won

McKEESPORT, Pa.—More than 200 employees of the G. C. Murphy Company's warehouse and distribution center have won their first RWDSU contract, Int'l Rep. Ernest Burberg reported. The settlement came early this month, and provides wage increases totaling 22 cents an hour as well as other substantial gains over a 3 year

period. The workers voted for RWDSU in a National Labor Relations Board election on Sept. 6 after months of delay by the Board in ordering an election date. In spite of the delay, the Murphy employees stuck together, meeting frequent-

ly to work out plans for their first union contract.

The organizing campaign was led by Burberg, with an active rank and file committee working from the inside.

Among the sparkplugs were George Puka, Mary Ruskin, Sylvia Maljevac, and William (Beanie) Lawnizak. Aid in the drive was also lent by the local Steelworkers union president, Henry Smith, and Frank Lasick of the staff of George Craig, AFL-CIO regional director.

Burberg also cited the assistance of RWDSU Sec.-Treas. Al Heaps and RWDSU Regional Dir. Gerald Hughes in the negotiations and at membership meetings.

The contract settlement calls for wage boosts of 10 cents an hour now, with another 6 cents in each of the succeeding 2 years. Other conditions established are paid vacations up to 5 weeks, time and a half for overtime, paid holidays, seniority, a grievance procedure with arbitration, supplementary pay for jury duty, and paid sick leave. In addition, such company policies as life insurance and a retirement plan were written into the contract, as well as sick benefits and a Christmas bonus.

The negotiations were aided by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

Committee Members

Members of the negotiating committee were George Komar, Helen Ruskin, William Lawnizak, George Puka, Ray Waddell, Louise Zyla and Stanley Mols. Spokesmen for the company were Edward Prociou, labor relations director, and attorney David Pawcett.

G. C. Murphy is a chain of 300 variety stores, some of them organized in RWDSU locals. The warehouse in this Pittsburgh suburb is its only one. The company has announced plans to open an additional 34 stores, mainly in the South, which will be a new location for the Murphy operations.

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15-19c Raises for 1 Year At Holsum Bakery in Ind.

FORT WAYNE, Ind.—A contract settlement with the Holsum Bakery here has brought the rates of RWDSU Local 835 members to among the highest in the baking industry of this state, Int'l Rep. Joseph Romer reported.

The 1-year pact, settled last month, provides wage increases of 10 percent, which is equal to a range of 15 to 19 cents an hour for the 50 employees, Romer said.

Another key gain was full company payment for health care instead of the former 50 percent payment, and extension of coverage to members' families.

A reduction in working hours was also won, bringing the work week to 46 hours instead of the previous 48. All work over 46 or over 8 hours is paid for at time and a half.

Grocery Warehouse Settles For 7 Cents in Anderson, Ind.

ANDERSON, Ind.—The employees of Read-Canady, a wholesale grocery warehouse, settled a contract reopener this month with across-the-board wage boosts of 7 cents an hour, Int'l Rep. Joseph Romer reported. The agreement covers 20 employees.

The contract will be reopened for wage talks once again next year, and is due to expire in 1958.

Kids Thrill to Chi Parties

CHICAGO, Ill.—The big auditorium of the Local 194 headquarters took a wonderful beating over the weekend of Dec. 15 and 16 when more than 2,000 small fry—children of members of '194' and the Chicago Joint Board—took over at the annual Christmas kiddy parties of the locals. But everybody agrees the hectic weekend was in the best of causes, as all the kids went home laden with gifts, bellies full of goodies, and heads full of visions of clowns, songs and magic.

Witnesses to both affairs were RWDSU Pres. Max Greenberg and Sec.-Treas. Al Heaps, who were in this city to confer with officers of both RWDSU groups.

Saturday saw some 1,500 children of Local 194 members at the annual Christmas fracas. The crowd and the multitude of prizes (more than 100) made the distribution of awards won in a drawing last over 2 hours. Among the prizes were 2 pedigreed collies given by the Rival dog food company, 2 bicycles given by Campbell's Soup, and many others.

On Sunday, about 600 offspring of Joint Board members gleefully followed up, and they had the additional treat of meeting Santa Claus. Behind the beard and under the pillow was Joint Board Rep. Carl Sansone, who was a very happy and also a very tired fellow on Monday. A committee of 15 rank and filers made all the arrangements, aided by a special contingent of about 35 Christmas stocking fillers, also drawn from the ranks.

Sees Job Bias in Toronto

HAMILTON, Ontario.—Despite Ontario's fair practices laws, discrimination in employment in Toronto is still "prevalent" a labor leader charged here. Kalmen Kaplansky, secretary of the Canadian Labor Congress Committee of Human Rights, said Ontario's pioneering anti-discrimination legislation had only resulted in discrimination being practiced "less blatantly."

He told the fifth annual fair practices and human rights education committee of the Ontario Federation of Labor of the "startling" results of a labor-sponsored research project into hiring in Toronto.

Three out of four placement agencies investigated told the employer of the racial extraction or race and religion of the applicant (although banned by the Fair Practices Acts) regardless of the qualifications of the applicant.

"One agency staff member said she made it a point to volunteer information about a person's race or religion to the employer, while a staff member of another agency said the employers were always told beforehand about race or religion 'to save embarrassment' for the girls," he stated.

Kaplansky also revealed the survey had shown that questions of race, religion or country of origin—all illegal under both federal and provincial legislation—were contained in job application forms of five of 16 insurance companies, two out of four head offices of banks, and three out of 13 offices studied in Toronto. "This is a matter for deep concern," he added.

Dominion Stores Key Target Of '414' Drive in Ontario

TORONTO, Ont.—Local 414, the union of retail and wholesale grocery workers in Ontario, grew by nearly 300 new members in the past year, it was reported at the local's annual convention Dec. 2 at the national union office here.

'414' Director Jack Piper reported there were 52 delegates at the convention, representing about 2,300 members in 50 different units throughout the province. He indicated the progress made in new organization was largely due to the work of three organizers who joined the full-time staff of the local during the past year. They are Hal Blanchard

and Roy Higson of Dominion Stores, and Cecil Dahmer of National Grocers.

One of the major tasks of these three will be to complete organization of Dominion Stores, of which Piper said there are eight large unorganized markets in as many different cities of the province.

RWDSU Sec.-Treas. Al Heaps was introduced by Regional Dir. George Barlow, and he addressed the delegates on the topic of Israel, which Heaps visited a few months ago as part of a trade union delegation to that country. The '414' members also heard a brief review of the history of the trade union movement by Dave Archer, secretary of the Ontario Federation of Labor.

Election of officers saw the return to office of Pres. Earl St. Thomas, Sec. Robert Smith, and Sec.-Treas. Emerson Osborne. Newly elected to the vice-president's post was Ralph Langley. All but two members of the 8-man executive board were replaced. Re-elected were Hal Stewart and Robert Dibb. New members are Violet Page, Ella Winterborn, Don Purdy, Don Tait, Ralph Cameron and Art Baggs.

Rail Employees Gain Labor Welfare Plan

MONTREAL—Details of Canada's biggest labor welfare plan have been revealed. It will provide life and accident insurance and hospital, medical and surgical benefits to 140,000 non-operating railway employees and their families, estimated at 360,000 dependents.

Since signing the master agreement six months ago a joint union-management committee has worked continuously to produce a satisfactory scheme. The work was complicated by questions of distribution of the benefits among the provinces throughout the country. Three provinces already have had a government insurance-hospitalization plan for some years.



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"I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT THAT SECOND PIECE OF PIE!"

Kraft Food Plant of 350 Under Organization in Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga.—A Kraft food processing plant is under organization here by the RWDSU, in a campaign which has reached the stage where a majority of the employees has signed up and a petition for election has been filed with the National Labor Relations Board. The drive is being led on the spot by Int'l Rep. William Connell, with direction from Regional Dir. Frank Parker. About 350 workers are employed at the well known food firm.

A meeting at the Labor Board office was to be held last week, as The Record went to press, to set the conditions for a possible consent election.

However, the company has already indicated that it will seek to include salesmen among the eligible voters, a move the union opposes.

Parker said it is possible that the case would have to go to formal hearings before the NLRB, and that such hearings might be drawn out over months. He said NLRB policy in the past has been to exclude salesmen from plant elections.

Meanwhile, the workers show a rising interest in the union, and their attendance at meetings has been good. Connell is being helped in the drive by Jim Touchstone, an organizer from the regional office of the AFL-CIO.



GEORGE W. STEWART, newly-elected president of Warehouse Local 261 in Birmingham, Ala., has been active in labor movement for past 20 years.

An Organizing Drive Lost — And a Lesson Learned

MACON, Ga.—The RWDSU, after an organizing campaign at the Ralston-Purina plant here, which saw a large majority of the 66 workers sign up in the union, lost a National Labor Relations Board election on Dec. 6 by about 10 votes, Regional Dir. Frank Parker reported.

Although the leaders of the drive were surprised at the election result at first, having expected an easy victory, later examination of the way the campaign was conducted revealed several reasons why the company was able to undermine the union's strength in the plant.

Parker said there were some circumstances beyond the union's control, which worked against it, such as the 200-mile distance from headquarters in Atlanta, and the company's device of calling the workers together the day before the election and giving them a phony version of an RWDSU contract in another Ralston-Purina plant. But Parker emphasized, "the real trouble was in the way we handled the campaign."

Only One Strong Leader

"To begin with," he said, "we were fooled by the fact that the workers signed up real easy, and we didn't think about the necessity of following up this success by organizing a strong core of rank and file leaders in the shop. We didn't give the people in the plant the responsibility of organizing themselves. Although we had one strong leader inside, one wasn't enough. He left the job a few days before the election, and we had no one else to count on."

Poor attendance at meetings was another factor cited by Parker. "At our weekly meetings with the workers we said the right things, but we said them to only about half of the workers. We didn't get the other half to turn out for the meetings, and the result was that the questions of many of the work-

ers were never answered, and their understanding of the importance of the union was never developed. Looking back at it now, we should have known we couldn't expect the workers to be strong enough to stand up to the company's tricks."

Parker said some important lessons were learned from this experience—"Lessons that some of us learned before, and feel pretty sure won't be forgotten again."



REP. HUDDLESTON of 9th District in Alabama is shown addressing joint meeting of Ward and NBC sales unit of Local 441. He pointed to strength of Democrats in winning Congress despite personal popularity of President Eisenhower.

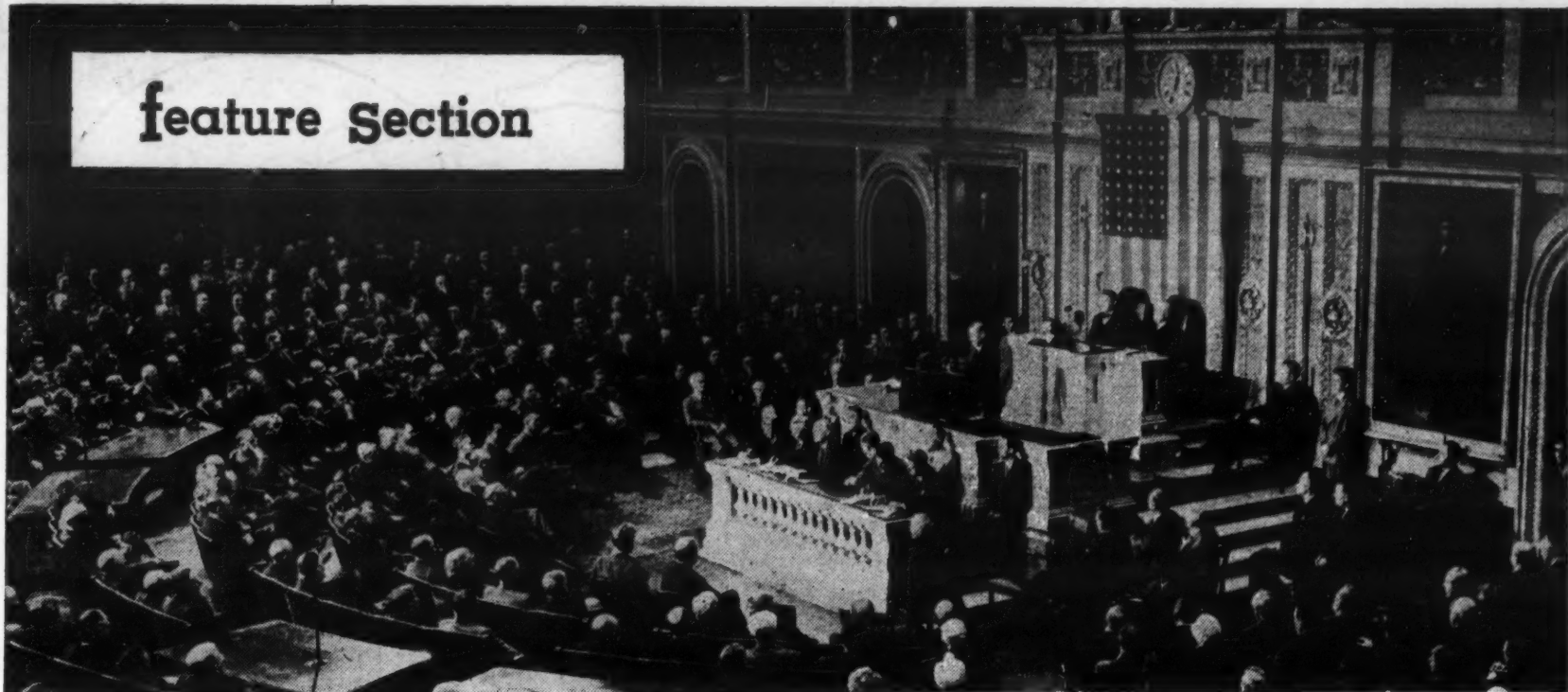
Ask Hayes Aircraft Probe

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Congressional leaders have been asked to investigate union-busting tactics employed by Hayes Aircraft Corp. against Auto Workers Local 1155.

Pres. George Siddons charged in telegrams to House and Senate members that the firm, working exclusively on Air Force contracts, has repeatedly violated the UAW contract which expires next April.

Local members, Siddons continued, "never have, nor do they intend to shirk their responsibility to their country and to their employer. It must be made clear, however, that if the labor relations policies of the management . . . force the employees to take drastic action to correct abuses, neither will they shirk that responsibility."

feature Section



85th CONGRESS

Will It Meet Needs of the American People?

By KENNETH A. MEIKLEJOHN
RWDSU Legislative Representative

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The 85th Congress, which begins its first session on January 3, 1957, is unique in one respect, but all too similar to its recent predecessors in nearly every other.

It is unique by virtue of the fact that following the November election, in which Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon, the Republican candidates for President and Vice President, were overwhelmingly re-elected, there are still Democratic majorities in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Not in over a hundred years has a national election resulted in such division of power and responsibility between the major political parties.

The line-up of the new Senate and House, is practically the same as it was before the election, 49 Democrats to 47 Republicans in the Senate, and 234 Democrats to 201 Republicans in the House. The Democratic margin is too close for comfort, especially on social and labor legislation, such as extension of coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act, removal of anti-labor restrictions in the Taft-Hartley Act, improvements in social security legislation, civil rights, health, housing, Federal aid to education, etcetera.

Indeed, the new Congress, just like its recent predecessors, gives every indication of being dominated by precisely the same Republican-Southern Democratic coalition that has dominated every Congress since 1938. The basis for this coalition is a rarely broken understanding under which there are always a sufficient number of Republicans to join with the Southern Democrats in defeating civil rights legislation and a sufficient number of Southern Democrats to join with the Republicans in defeating liberal bills which the Republican leadership in Congress disapproves.

A test of the strength of this conservative coalition and of the liberal forces in Congress will come on the opening day of the session when an effort will be made to amend the Senate rules to enable a simple majority of the Senators to end debate after a reasonable period on any matter, including civil rights legislation. Under the present rules, which require 64 votes, or two-thirds of the entire Senate membership, to end debate, Southern Senators are able absolutely to block such legislation simply by

the threat of a filibuster. Keeping the present rules is, therefore, regarded by them as vitally important.

In 1953, when a similar attempt was made to change the Senate rules, 41 Republicans joined with 29 Democrats in killing the move; only 5 Republicans, 15 Democrats and one Independent (Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon, who has since become a Democrat) voted against doing so. This year, the coalition is expected to hold together once more to defeat the new move to liberalize the Senate rules, although possibly by a reduced margin. This will depend a great deal on what attitude is taken toward the matter by President Eisenhower and his Administration. The President has not as yet made known his views.

Dixiecrat-GOP Alliance Can Be Overcome

The continued domination of Congress by the Republican-Southern Democratic coalition does not automatically doom all important social and labor legislation. In 1955, for example, it was possible to obtain enactment of legislation raising the minimum wage for employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act from 75 cents to \$1 an hour. Again, in 1956 it was possible to write into the social security law provision for disability insurance benefits for workers reaching the age of 50. Although both of these measures ran contrary to the economic and social predilections of the ruling coalition in Congress and were opposed by many employers and employer-minded groups and, indeed, by the Eisenhower Administration, both were enacted because Congress was aware there was a real demand and need for them.

The prospect for favorable action on measures for which a similar demand and need are made clear is equally good in the next Congress. Among these measures should be legislation extending the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act to a substantial proportion of the millions of retail and other workers who are still denied its protection. This will depend in large measure, however, on the success of the organized labor movement in making clear the need for such legislation and in giving voice to a real demand for it. Among the most important things to be done is to make sure that each individual union member plays his part by letting his Senators and Congressman know that this legislation is a matter of vital interest to himself and to his fellows.

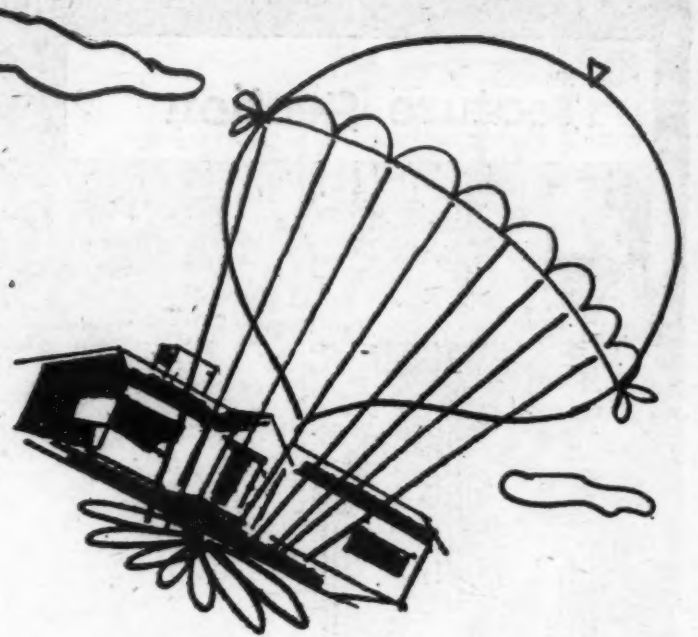
Labor Lists Key Domestic Issues Before Congress

Following are the main planks of the AFL-CIO program on domestic legislation which labor will urge the 85th Congress to pass into law:

1. Broadening the coverage of the minimum wage law to protect millions of retail employees and other workers not now covered by the \$1 minimum; continuing the campaign to raise the minimum to at least \$1.25 an hour.
2. Complete overhaul of the Taft-Hartley Act to make it fair and just to labor and management.
3. Strengthening of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, the Bacon-Davis Act and other labor statutes.
4. Reduction of federal income taxes for families in the low and middle-income brackets and for small business.
5. Legislation to provide assistance to depressed industrial areas where unemployment persists.
6. Modernization of our present inadequate unemployment compensation system and further liberalization of social security, including the adoption of federal insurance against the cost of medical care.
7. A housing program which will result in construction of two million units a year, including encouragement of private construction of reasonably priced homes for the average family, and expansion of public housing and slum clearance projects for low-income groups.
8. A comprehensive farm program, embracing price supports, conservation payments, low-interest loans and rural electrification.
9. Government loans, under liberal terms, to stimulate business and farm investment and modernization, especially for small enterprises.
10. Major federal and state programs to meet acute shortages of roads, schools, hospitals and other vital services.
11. Development of all possible sources of power through both public and private ownership; support of multi-purpose harnessing of our river basins; construction of atomic reactors as provided in the Gore-Hollifield bill.
12. A federal act requiring disclosure of all financial operations of welfare funds, whether jointly administered or company-sponsored.
13. Civil rights legislation aimed at eradicating discrimination and segregation based upon race, color, creed, or national origin.

sky-high prices take millions out of new-home market

By ROBERT DOBBS



AT least 15 million out of the nation's 45 million housing units are located in slum areas, are dilapidated, or have no bathrooms or plumbing. And the situation is getting worse, not better. In 15 years, even supposing a modest increase in the present rate of construction, another 2 million families will be doomed to live in substandard homes, making a total then of 17 million.

A recent move by the federal government, which is supposed to brighten this picture, actually makes it even gloomier. It's a move designed to encourage banks and other lending institutions to invest their money in home mortgages, and the lure held out to them is a higher rate of interest on mortgages issued by the Federal Housing Administration. The rate used to be 4½ percent, and is now 5 percent. Thus, a homebuyer, if he's lucky enough to find a house he can afford, has to pay a higher rate to the bank or other lending outfit for his mortgage loan.

With one-half of 1% added for FHA insurance, that brings actual interest paid on FHA loans up to 5½%. And reports from many areas of the country tell of non-FHA mortgages with interest rates as high as 8% and more.

The net result of the increase in mortgage interest, coupled with sky-high prices, is to put new houses out of reach for the overwhelming majority of American families. Rising costs of land, building materials and construction have practically eliminated lower-priced homes from the market.



Business Week Magazine said on Aug. 11, 1956:

"What seems to be taking shape is a switch from the homebuilder's high-volume, low-price business of early post-war years to a lower-volume, higher-price operation. As a result, low and middle income groups are being priced out of the market—choking off the demand of the largest potential group of buyers. From all over some reports that the \$12,000-and-under house is disappearing from the new market; that within another year the under-\$15,000 house will go the same way."

Although the latest interest rate boost does not affect veterans who purchase homes with mortgages backed by the Veterans' Administration, the steadily rising prices of homes prevent many a vet with a moderate income from buying a new home of his own.

A good idea of how prices are skyrocketing is given in the figures for the last two years. In 1955 the average new house sold for \$13,700, according to the U. S. Labor Department—\$1,400 more than the average 1954 house in the same category. The AFL-CIO's Economic Review estimates that 1956 house prices will show an even greater jump.

To afford a \$13,700 house, a family would have to have an income of about \$6,500 to \$7,000 a year if it devotes 20 percent of its income to housing, which is what the experts agree should be the maximum. But, according to Federal Reserve Board figures, only one-fifth of all U. S. families had incomes of \$7,000 or more. On this basis, 80% of all families are forced out of the new-house market.

Bates Hits Rate Boost

In a blast at the government's relaxation of mortgage interest rates, Harry C. Bates, president of the AFL-CIO Bricklayers and chairman of the AFL-CIO Housing Committee, declared that "for the family with a \$10,000 mortgage to be paid over a 30-year period, the boost means an increase of more than \$1,100 in total payments over the life of the mortgage." The additional money, Bates said, is taken from the pocket of the hard-pressed homeowner and goes "into the bulging coffers of banks and other mortgage lending institution."

That the budgets of moderate income families have indeed been severely strained by trying to fit in payments on an FHA house is powerfully shown in an analysis in a recent issue of Labor's Economic Review. Stating that nearly half the houses financed with FHA-insured mortgage loans in 1954 were bought by families earning between \$3,000 and \$5,000 a year, the analysis showed that they could only do so at the expense of the food, clothing, medical care and other necessary items in the budget.

Says the Economic Review, "These facts regarding the current housing situation point to a single conclusion. The current housing program is inadequate. It is inadequate because it fails to assure a high enough volume of construction to meet minimum housing needs, and because it fails to provide housing at costs most families can afford."

The AFL-CIO, at its first convention last December, said in a resolution on housing for America, "In recent years the need for a comprehensive program to achieve the goal of good housing for every family has been increasingly

recognized and accepted. Our nation cannot evade its responsibility for eradicating slums and slum conditions. Every American has the right to a genuine opportunity to obtain good housing in a good neighborhood."

The word "comprehensive" is the key to any approach which seeks to provide meaningful answers to America's housing problems. With the situation worsening year by year, piecemeal attacks on the problem will only create delay, while the high price we pay for poor housing continues to mount in terms of sickness from living in unsanitary conditions, juvenile delinquency and otherwise generally stunted development of our children, tomorrow's citizens.

AFL-CIO has put forth a thorough recommendation for action by Congress on national housing. Its major points are:

1. Construction of at least 2 million new dwelling units a year immediately as the basis for government housing programs.
2. A large scale, low rent public housing program to meet the needs of our lowest income families.
3. To provide housing at reasonable cost for middle income families, a program of low interest, long amortization loans for cooperative housing and non-profit rental housing, as well as individually owned homes.

A bill dealing with the problem of decent housing at reasonable cost for middle income families was put before Congress last year by Senator Lehman, and was co-sponsored by other liberal senators and given strong support by the AFL-CIO. One of the bill's main provisions calls for the establishment of a government-run lending institution with authority to make long-term, low-interest loans for cooperative, non-profit rental and individually owned houses.

Loans would be made to individuals for purchase of single family homes, cooperative groups building either single homes or apartment projects and sponsors of non-profit rental developments. Unfortunately Congress failed to enact this program. However, Senator Sparkman, (D. Ala.), chairman of the Senate Housing Subcommittee, stated on the floor of the Senate that adequate provision of housing for middle income families would be given sympathetic consideration in the next Congress.

Picture Could Be Changed

All in all, though, the would-be homeowner's outlook is a pretty gloomy one with a federal Administration in office whose attitude toward low-cost housing is hardly an encouraging one. It seems unlikely, too, that the combination of Dixiecrats and Republicans in Congress will do much about enacting a meaningful housing program. However, as with other liberal legislative proposals, an effective, vigorous campaign on the part of the labor movement and other supporters of low-cost housing can succeed, despite the opposition of reactionaries.

It would be a tragedy for the American economy if the pace of home construction, which has played such an important role in bolstering our nation's prosperity during the past ten years, were to be halted for want of long-range planning and appropriate legislation. Even more tragic would be the plight of millions of Americans doomed to live in slums and substandard dwellings in a country whose capacity to produce is the wonder of the world.



Photo by Frank Kerness

'65' store rings up 2,000 sales a day, proof that crowd above isn't merely window-shopping. At right, stream of members pouring out of meeting hall is typical sight at '65 Center.

Busy Union Building

By HILLY ELSON

NEW YORK.—The '65' Center, famed headquarters of the RWDSU's District 65, is bulging at its well-organized seams these days. The union's all-out preparations for 1957 contract negotiations for most of its 30,000 members, plus a strong grievance clean-up program, combined with holiday season shopping in its Consumer Service retail store, have brought traffic to an all-time high in the 11-story building at 13 Astor Place. It is estimated that an average of 4,000 people daily are now passing through its portals.

Long known for intensive membership participation in union activities, District 65 has set new records during the past few months as these functions went into high gear. Meeting attendance figures proved the need to get the 20,000-seat Madison Square Garden, largest indoor arena in New York, for a union-wide membership meeting. And that is exactly where such a meeting will be held on Feb. 13.

In the last three months, there have been some 1,500 meetings with a total attendance of over 60,000. These include membership, shop, crew, local executive boards, grievance and other committees, and General Council sessions.

The central focus of most of these meetings has been drafting of demands for renewals and reopenings of hundreds of union contracts Feb. 1. Most negotiations are already in progress. It is planned to get all of them under way well in advance of the Feb. 1 deadline.

Another union activity which brings hundreds of new and prospective members to the building is the giant organizing drive being conducted by District 65. By the end of 1956, this year's campaign will have brought in some 2,000 new members, while many more are in process of organization. Key targets in the drive are the unorganized department stores throughout the metropolitan New York area.

All of this strictly trade union ferment would produce teeming traffic in the '65' Center at any time. Add to it the additional traffic of the holiday season, and the result is truly huge crowds as shoppers converge on the union's Consumer Service. Some 2,000 sales a day have been recorded in the cooperative retail store during recent weeks.

There's no doubt that the elevators are very crowded, and that there are long waits for them on each floor. There are long lines before the windows where members pay dues, at the Credit Union, and crowds in the '65' cafeteria and at the checkout counters in Consumer Service. But the overwhelming majority of members put up with these inconveniences cheerfully and understandingly. They're proud of the stir and bustle in their union headquarters; they recognize that these are signs of life and health in a union just as in an individual.

Crowded elevators at District 65 Center take thousands of members to their destinations in various parts of 11-story building. Most trips find cars filled to capacity.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congrats on 'Record' Press Award

To the Editor:

My congratulations on having won one of the International Labor Press Association Awards for 1956. We here at COPE have often commented on the general, all-around excellence of your publication.

We appreciate the cooperation you have given the Committee on Political Education and know that we can depend upon you for further help in years to come.

Be sure to let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you in the political field.

Again, congratulations and best regards.

DICK DASHIELL, Director of Public Relations
Committee on Political Education, AFL-CIO
Washington, D.C.

Which Kind of Member Are You?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?

Do you take an active part
To help the UNION along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind to "just belong?"

Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick
Or leave the work for just a few

And talk about "the clique?"

There is quite a program schedule
That means success if done,
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.

So attend the meetings regularly,
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.

Think this over, member,
Are we right or wrong?
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

BUCK CONNELL, Int'l Rep.
Atlanta, Ga.

a study in prejudice

School Girl Sees Anti-Semitism First Hand

By HARRY FLEISCHMAN

Playing "movie" can be a terrifying experience. When 16-year-old Karen Deslandes of Berkley, Michigan saw a revival of "Gentlemen's Agreement," she found the film hard to believe. It tells the story of a Christian magazine writer who posed as a Jew for six months to study anti-Semitism.

"I thought it farfetched that a Jewish-sounding name should make its owner unwanted," she said. "I thought things like that just don't happen anymore."

She decided to see for herself. When schoolmates asked what the attachments on her charm bracelet represented, Karen told them that they were "Jewish symbols." Nothing else.

Karen is of Scotch and French ancestry and attends the Community Church in this Detroit suburb. But many of her friends immediately assumed she was Jewish. Some of them suddenly became cold, aloof. "My social life suffered. People just 'forgot' to invite me to affairs. There was no one to walk home with from school," she said.

Karen's parents and younger sister, not knowing about the experiment, wondered as their friends also seemed too busy for social calls.

After six weeks, Karen went to her speech teacher and other school officials in Berkley High School and told them the whole story. Together they arranged a full school assembly, heralded only as a "BARP meeting." When Karen was introduced she explained that BARP stood for "Berkley Attacks Race Prejudice" and told them about her six weeks as a Jew. She told her schoolmates how they had reacted, how she and her family had suffered.

"Now I understand," she said, "that prejudice is more than a word in the dictionary. I understand how it warps and twists; how it can result in the hideous burning of Jews in Germany, the mob violence against Negroes, the man-against-man attitudes of Communists and Fascists."

When she finished, all of her friends and many strangers gathered about her in the auditorium. Between hugging and crying most of them asked: "But I didn't do those horrible things, did I?" Said Karen: "I couldn't answer those unhappy and ashamed people while so full of sorrow. All I could do was suggest that they search their own souls."

MOVIES

in
review

ANASTASIA—★★★★

All those connected with the production of Anastasia—20th Century Fox, director Anatole Litvak, writer Marcelle Maurette and others—are to be highly commended. A masterful film and remarkable story, it is elegantly acted by Helen Hayes, Yul Brynner and Ingrid Bergman in the leading roles.



Ingrid Bergman

Anastasia has everything to recommend it to the most discriminating moviegoer—story substance, authentic gypsy music, comedy and expert photography, not to omit Cinemascope and De Luxe Color.

The complex story, in essence, is the struggle of a sick creature to achieve identity—an acceptable berth in society. A group of opportunistic Tsarists of the dismembered elite manufacture a parasitic means whereby they can survive. The only parasitic means of livelihood their training provided them with is extortion for a cause. Expatriated White Russians from all over Europe who want to return to the "good old days" subsidize a search for their surviving monarch, Anastasia, daughter of Nicholas, Tsar of All Russia.

Yul Brynner, as an ex-Tsarist general, luxuriates in Paris with his cohorts on the proceeds of the "search" until the impoverished providers demand their money back or their princess produced. Enter Ingrid Bergman as Anastasia, and finally the old dowager Queen, Helen Hayes, to make final judgement as to acceptance or rejection of their heir.

What is particularly meaningful is how delicately the love of the two protagonists is presented. Without a single embrace or any amorous word between them, the force of their feelings toward one another is powerfully shown, a commentary on this superb film.

—VERA BERNARD

THE RAINMAKER—★★★★

The Rainmaker, successful on Broadway and as a television play, has all the ingredients for an enchanting film. The theme has warmth, realism and the graceful charm of a fairytale. To add to this, there are outstanding performances by Burt Lancaster and Katherine Hepburn.

Miss Hepburn, so tremendous in previous portrayals of old-maids, is perfectly cast as the shy spinster, Lizzie Curry. Her problem is a very painful one. Cooking, sewing and keeping house for her two brothers and father are unsatisfying. She wants to feel she is a woman, "to make someone happy," yet lacks the necessary confidence in herself. The heat of the season, which has caused a terrible drought, tends to emphasize her loneliness.



K. Hepburn

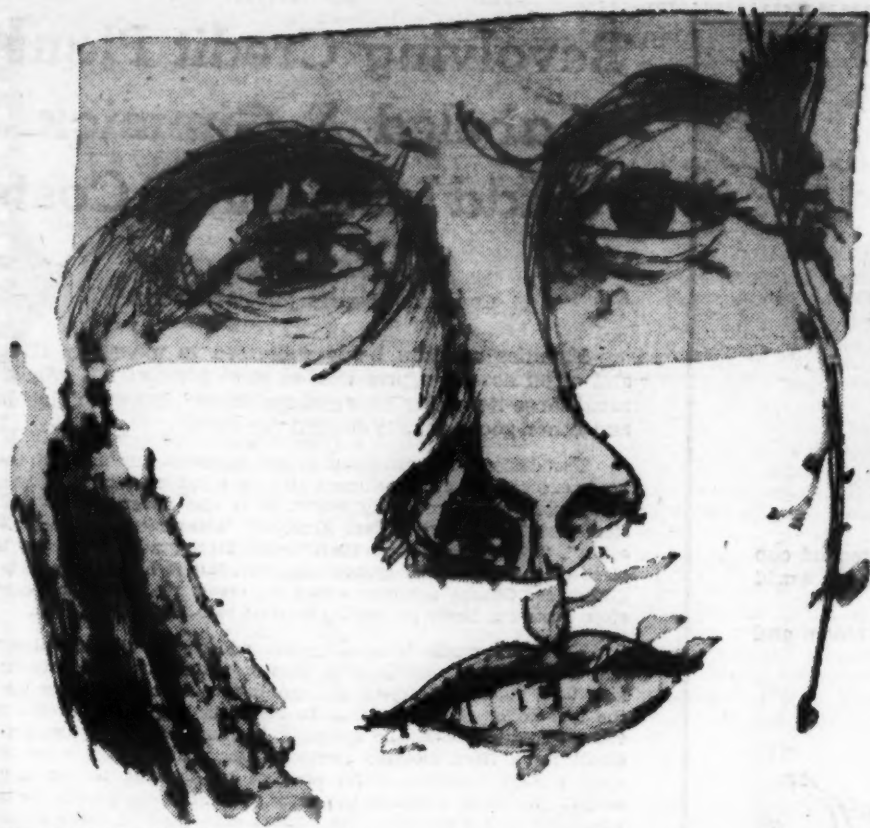
But somewhere over that cloudless, rainless horizon, there's one of those magnificent fakers who offers people anything—for a price. For the rainless, there's rain; for the loveless, romance. The smooth talking, sophisticated Starbuck, as the Rainmaker calls himself, shows her the golden rainbow over the horizon. Burt Lancaster does the role to a "T."

Cameron Prud'homme is splendid as the loving, hopeful and bungling father. Lloyd Bridges as the cynical brother, Earl Holliman as the foot-in-the-mouth boy, and Wendell Corey, the deputy sheriff who thinks he is better off alone—round out the fine cast. The Rainmaker is excellent Christmas season entertainment.

—ROSEMARIE Da SILVA

RECORD MOVIE RATING

★★★★	★★★	★★
The Rainmaker	Jule	Teen Age Rebel
Anastasia	The Rack	Love Me Tender
Teahouse of the	The Mountain	The Opposite Sex
August Moon	The Ten Commandments	Death of a Scoundrel
Magnificent Seven	The Solid Gold Cadillac	The Girl He Left Behind
Marcelino		
Around The World in 80 Days	Tea & Sympathy	★
The Silent World		The Brave One



Drawing by Stanley Glausbach

MENTAL health

Can tranquilizers be a new kind of "miracle drug" to end worry, anxiety, nervous tensions? A leading medical consultant considers the evidence pro and con, and offers his conclusions on effective treatment of emotional disturbances.

Are Tranquilizers a Shortcut in Treating Nervous Disorders?

By DR. HAROLD AARON

Almost everyone is talking about and many are taking, the new tranquilizer drugs. What penicillin and other antibiotics have done for the acute infectious diseases such as pneumonia and meningitis, the tranquilizer drugs such as Miltown, Equanil, Thorazine, Serposil, Dormison and others now appear to be doing to the mental and nervous disorders of mankind. Is there a new era ahead in which worry, anxiety and nervous tensions can be dissolved away by a chemical?

The use of drugs to control nervousness is not new. From ancient times, alcoholic drinks have been used and abused to tranquilize or quiet mental agitation, tension and anxiety. In moderation, alcoholic drinks are effective in promoting relaxation of the mind and social ease in many normal persons. A cocktail or two before dinner is often helpful in removing tensions accumulated during the day. A nightcap may also be useful in some persons in relaxing the mind so that sleep is possible. But the limitations of alcoholic drinks in relaxing common nervous disorders are well known. What is worse, alcohol when taken regularly and in large amounts—more than 2 ounces daily—can cause serious physical disorders and mental changes far more ominous than those it was hoped the drinking would control.

Tobacco has also been used for hundreds of years as a tranquilizer. It too is helpful in reducing mild everyday nervous tension. But like alcohol, its ineffectiveness in controlling disabling nervous disorders such as the psychoses and neuroses and its harmful effects on the body when used in excess (over 1 pack of cigarettes daily) are now well known. Contrary to popular belief the opium drugs—morphine and heroin—and marijuana are of little value in relieving nervous symptoms. Their toxic effects on the nervous system and their ability to cause deterioration of personality are notorious. So serious are these harmful effects that strict legal and medical laws have been set up sharply limiting the use of narcotic drugs to the relief of pain.

Popular Beverages Are Stimulants

Coffee, tea and cola types of drinks contain caffeine, a stimulant drug acting on the brain. These beverages are helpful in stimulating the mind and body to perform daily tasks more adequately. But they are best avoided by persons troubled by anxieties and other nervous symptoms.

The barbiturate drugs such as nebutal, secobarbital and phenobarbital are frequently prescribed by physicians for relief of the "jitters," anxiety, insomnia and other nervous symptoms. These drugs have been used for more than 50

years and are still a great boon for the relief of common nervous symptoms. But they have not been helpful in controlling to any extent such nervous disorders as schizophrenia, depressive states and other common nervous disorders.

Because of the ineffectiveness of barbiturate and other sedative drugs in controlling common nervous disorders, the discovery that an antihistamine-like drug, chlorpromazine (trade name, Thorazine), had a tranquilizing effect on serious nervous disorders such as schizophrenia was enthusiastically greeted by medical experts. Articles have appeared in the medical as well as lay press indicating that the drug is a valuable addition to a doctor's collection of drugs for treating certain nervous disorders—particularly those in which there is extreme agitation and excitement, as in the mental disorder schizophrenia. In proper doses and under close supervision by a physician, patients become more manageable, and more readily treated by psychological and other methods.

Many Mental Patients Improve

Because of the value of the drug in relieving symptoms of severe nervous disorders, many patients in mental institutions have been able to go home and enter into activities and relationships that were previously impossible or delayed for many years. Although chlorpromazine does not cure schizophrenia or any other mental illness, it does calm the seriously agitated mentally sick person much better and with fewer side reactions than barbiturates or other drugs.

But chlorpromazine does not help a large group of our population who are not in mental institutions, those people who manage to work and to relate to other people and to their families but who are troubled by fears, phobias, depressions, insomnia, strong feelings of insecurity and inferiority, or by the other symptoms that doctors call neuroses or neurotic symptoms. According to a recent survey at least 10% of our population outside of our mental hospitals are disabled to one extent or another by such symptoms. Doctors report that at least half of their patients come to them with disorders in which emotional factors play an important or critical part. For these disorders, chlorpromazine is of little value.

Reserpine (trade name Serposil, Rawlloid) is another drug currently used for its tranquilizing properties. Originally employed for its effect in reducing blood pressure of patients with one type of high blood pressure, it has also been found helpful in relieving mental tension, anxiety or agitation in some neurotic or psychotic disorders of the mind. But like chlorpromazine, it does not cure any nervous disorder, it is helpful in only a limited number of emotional disturbances and its toxic effects are so numerous

and important that it must be taken only under the close supervision of a physician.

The proven value of chlorpromazine and reserpine in relieving a limited number and type of nervous symptoms served as a great stimulus to development of other drugs for treatment of nervous symptoms. Several new types of chemicals have been introduced into medical practice in the past two years, the most important of which appears to be the meprobamate drugs—Miltown and Equanil. These drugs are not only widely prescribed by doctors but also seem to be readily accessible without prescription to thousands of persons in many states, perhaps through bootleg channels. The drug seems to have acquired a reputation for producing ease, happiness and peace of mind without fear of addiction or toxic effects.

After more than two years' experience with the drug, it is possible to say that although the drug does have a calming effect on some people's minor nervousness, it will not induce happiness or peace of mind, and it does cause habituation and disturbing toxic effects of the body and nervous system. Because of the widespread use and abuse of these and other tranquilizing drugs and because the properties and the indications for use of these drugs are not yet clearly known, the National Institute of Health and the Veterans Administration hospital system have undertaken a comprehensive long-range study of these drugs. In the meantime, doctors as well as lay persons are being cautioned by medical experts that the tranquilizing drugs are not the answer to man's mental health problems, that they are helpful but not curative in a small number of mental disorders and that they can cause serious mental and physical reactions such as severe nervous depression, blood changes, jaundice, and other disorders.

Doctor Still Plays Big Role

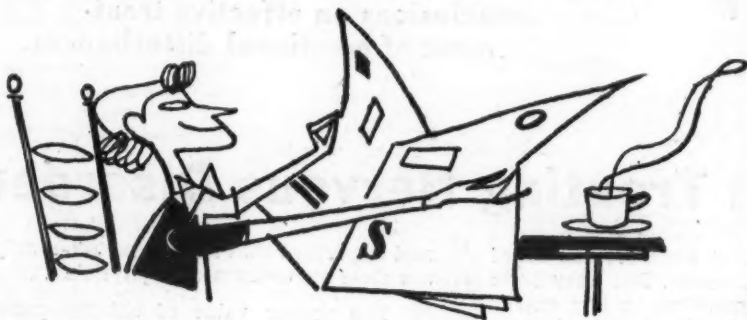
The effective treatment of emotional disturbances still requires a continuous warm relationship between a doctor and patient. An important aspect of this relationship is the understanding that the doctor has about his patient's family, occupational and social background. From this understanding can come important advice and suggestions that can help the patient to overcome real and nameless fears and anxieties. This is "psychotherapy" and is still the nucleus of effective treatment of emotional disturbances and symptoms. Drugs, such as the barbiturates and the newer tranquilizing agents, are also useful. Perhaps at some future time they may make psychotherapy unnecessary. At present they do not. In fact, the safe and effective use of these drugs demands a continuous and understanding relationship with a physician, whether he is a family doctor or psychiatrist.

All NEWS Is BAD NEWS

By JANE GOODSELL

You wake up in the morning and, by the time you've had a second cup of coffee, you're ready to face the world. You're feeling good, and the world looks good, too.

The sun's in the sky, birds are twittering, the azaleas are in bloom and children are roller skating.



So you settle back in your chair and open up the morning paper.

The front page tells you that a bank cashier, with a fondness for horse racing, has misappropriated \$34,994.65. Rivers are rising to flood levels, and the international situation is just as murky as it was yesterday. The weather forecast is rain.

You turn hopefully to the column of your favorite news analyst. From him you learn that, although the state of the world may look unencouraging on the surface, it is even less encouraging behind the scenes.

A letter from a woman reader complains that daylight saving has ruined her life, and the editorials take a dim view of everything that has happened lately.

You glance through the fashion advertisements, which convince you that your present wardrobe is as outmoded as pantaloons. The prices of new clothes convince you that there isn't much you can do about it.

You read in the beauty column about a lady who has put on 20 pounds. Her clothes no longer fit her, and her husband is starting to spend a lot of time away from home.

The garden editor prints a letter from a lady whose annuals have been eaten by bugs, and in the child guidance section, a mother complains that her 3-year-old refuses to eat vegetables and is jealous of his baby sister.

There are dozens of eye-catching little advertisements for the attention of those suffering from hives, indigestion, fatigue, bunions, tired eyes and inferiority complexes.

All the comic-strip characters are wallowing in personal troubles, grave danger, heartbreak, tumult and violence.

An announcement is made that there are no funds available to provide a mate for the lone camel languishing in a zoo, and today's menu suggests creamed codfish and buttered beets.

Once again you glance at the world outside the window. It's still there, and it still looks good. It seems unlikely that it can be the same world you've been reading about in the newspaper.

You wonder if maybe some newspaper editors simply got together and made the whole thing up.



—Record Drawings by Marjorie Glaubach

'Revolving Credit Plans' Labeled A Gimmick To Add Installment Costs

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

Consumer Expert for The Record

Families are now being subjected to unusually strong and often deceptive pressures to buy on credit not only the usual large items like cars and appliances, but even clothing and other goods usually bought for cash.

The device being promoted to get people to buy most of their needs except food on installment plans is a seductive but eventually costly plan called revolving credit. It is also advertised by many stores as "Permanent Budget Account," "Convenient Payment Account," "Revolving Charge Plan," etc. It is gradually taking the place of the traditional charge accounts. But it has one important difference. Charge accounts entail no credit fee. Revolving credit often costs the buyer an annual interest rate of 18-22 percent.

Revolving credit is actually the add-on installment plan in new and more respectable garb. Add-on installment accounts have long been used by "easy-credit" stores to get people to buy up to the last dollar of their ability to meet the payments. In the revolving-credit version, the customer is granted a fixed amount of credit for a fixed monthly payment. For example, the buyer can open a \$300 revolving credit account by agreeing to pay \$19 a month. When he wishes to buy more goods, he simply adds the new purchases to his account. He doesn't even need to make a down payment on the new purchases. Unless his new purchases exceed the limit of his account, he continues to make the same monthly payment.

Avoid Useless Expenses

If the family with a \$300 account regularly is kept buying up to this limit, it would add to its living expenses a permanent new cost of \$54 to \$66 a year. Actually this is a useless expense, for the family would merely be paying a credit fee on the smaller items it generally could manage to buy for cash by doing its own budgeting. Instead of putting aside so much a month for these items, the family is paying the retailer a sizable fee for this budgetary discipline.

Significantly, the fee for revolving credit even among reputable retailers is much higher than the usual finance charge on hard goods. In comparison, you can finance a car at a cost of 13-14 percent of the balance you owe each month. The finance charge on small items of necessity is always larger than on sizable balances.

The country's largest mail-order houses and department stores currently are actively pushing revolving credit in addition to the regular installment plans for appliances and other large items. One out of every 6½ U. S. families now has a credit account with Sears, Roebuck of either the revolving-credit or regular-installment type, this firm has revealed. Sears is now establishing its own finance company to handle this gigantic credit buying. Montgomery Ward and Spiegel's similarly are pushing revolving credit. One alert reader Mr. J. K., of St. Louis, reports to this department that recently he requested a Spiegel catalog. He got back a credit application blank and a letter stating that "the limited supply (of catalogs) is reserved for those who accept our invitation to open a Spiegel Account." (But Mr. J. K. was alert to the high cost of credit accounts and dodged the invite.)

Department Stores on Bandwagon

Department stores too are getting on the revolving bandwagon. Of 375 stores represented at a recent conference of the National Retail Dry Goods Association, only 30 had no revolving credit plans. They were warned they would lose customers if they didn't get in on this new trend.

Chief purpose of the big mail-order houses and department stores, in promoting revolving credit, is to tie you to them. But in the hands of unscrupulous stores, add-on sales can become an outright racket. Dr. Persia Campbell, New York State Consumer Counsel, has warned consumers there that if an additional purchase is added to a conditional sales contract, the original goods may be repossessed as well as the second purchase, even though the purchaser has paid enough to cover the cost of the original goods. In a typical case, a family buys a television set, makes all payments except the last \$50, then buys a vacuum cleaner. This is added to the balance outstanding on the television. If the family falls behind in payments, not only the cleaner but the TV set can be repossessed. This is legal because the payments had been applied partially to both items.

The high-pressure type of credit stores have a whole series of special devices to get customers to "add on". They get customers to make payments at the store in person rather than send in payments by mail; keep customers names in a "tickler" file and start to press for add-ons about four months before the final payment is due. If she is stubborn they pass her on to expert salesmen who specialize in breaking down resistance for add-ons. Retailing Daily has reported that the motto of a Denver store is, "Never let customers get their accounts paid up."

Our Advice:

- Avoid all add-on plans, whether the dangerous contract add-ons of fringe credit stores, or the merely expensive revolving-credit plans of the larger retailers.

- Anticipate your peak needs in clothing and other soft goods by putting aside the money on a monthly basis in a special savings account. For example, families who ordinarily buy clothing for cash often find themselves strapped to pay the big bill for new outfits before Easter, and in the fall.

- If you have not been able to put aside money for periods of peak need, you can borrow from a credit union or commercial bank at less cost than revolving-credit plans charge.

rwdsu RECORD

lighter side of the record

In a New York department store the other day a middle-aged gentleman dropped by the perfume counter, picked up a sample atomizer and gave himself a couple of squirts.

With a wink at the surprised saleslady, he remarked, "Like to keep my wife guessing," and went on his way.

Santas Are Organizing

NEW YORK CITY—Virgil Connally, a professional Santa Claus for 30 years, announced he was organizing an international union of Santa Clauses. "I've had inquiries from a dozen cities, including Toronto, Canada," said Connally. "For the most part Santa Clauses are exploited, overworked and underpaid, and despite that they have to look happy and jolly all day long. So the boys have decided they need the protections and benefits of unionism. Next week I'm writing to AFL-CIO President George Meany about a charter." There's just one possible difficulty, Connally added: "We'd be paying per capita only one month a year—December!"

Suggestive Suggestion

FALL RIVER, Mass.—The Firestone Tire Co. concedes that the old-fashioned suggestion box will never replace sex. After awarding one employee \$4,000 for a bright suggestion on improving production, the company admitted that it was stumped by this proposal in the suggestion box: "Please hire some good looking single men."

It happened in a lonely spot on a dark night. A voice out of the blackness pleaded: "Would the gentleman be so kind as to assist a poor hungry fellow who is out of work? Besides this revolver, I haven't a thing in the world."

Secretary Comes First

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Here's a tipoff on the seriousness of the shortage of clerical workers. Suing for divorce, Mrs. Phyllis Tobeler testified that she didn't get along with her husband's secretary. However, when she complained to her husband about the girl, her spouse announced, "A secretary is more important than a wife—I can get another wife any time."

Underground Orchard

KIRKLAND LAKE, Ontario—Union miners at the Sylvanite Gold Mine claimed a unique distinction. They are the only miners in the world with their own underground orchard, they contend. More than a half-mile beneath the surface, the miners have grown a 42-inch apple tree and three small orange trees planted in a tub. The apple tree was started 10 years ago by a miner now retired. After he left two other miners took over the responsibility of keeping the tree watered. Later several miners accidentally tossed orange seeds from their lunches into a box and they took root. Substituting for the sun is a 200-watt bulb which is kept burning night and day. The unique trees disregard the seasons, shedding leaves and growing new foliage all the time. Recently, one union member decided to accelerate the trees' growth by adding vitamins to the plant food.

An Indian was sending smoke signals in New Mexico when an atomic blast let loose.

"Gosh!" said the awe-struck brave, as he gazed at the mushroom, "I wish I'd said that!"

BARNEY SMOKSTACK



PEGGY



TILLER



"UNION MAID"

—A Serial Story



JUNE BLAIR plays a WAC in Warner's "The Girl He Left Behind." We'll give odds that this outfit isn't regulation.



IT'S THE UNION'S REPLY TO OUR LATEST CONTRACT OFFER!

—By Bill Perkins

Wage Order 'Imminent' For N. Y. State \$1 Retail Pay Floor

— See Page 6

200 at G. C. Murphy Pa. Warehouse Win 22c in 1st Pact

— See Page 7

DEAR OLD SANTA CLAUS

Words and Music by
HENRY GORDON

Sw... Music Box

Loco

CHORUS

UP IN THE LAND OF ICE AND SNOW FLAKES, THERE'S AN OLD GENT YOU KNOW FOR HE MAKES

WON-DER-FUL THINGS AND JUST FOR YOUR SAKES, DEAR OLD SAN-TA CLAUS. HE'S

NEV-ER RE-TIR-ING, NEV-ER REST-ING, ALL OF HIS TIME HE SPENDS IN-VEST-ING

MAK-ING THE THINGS THAT YOU'RE RE-QUEST-ING, DEAR OLD SAN-TA CLAUS. THE

NORTH POLE IS A BUS-Y PLACE, A WON-DER WORLD OF TOYS, WHILE

SAN-TA FILLS HIS MAG-IC BAG, FOR ALL GOOD GIRLS AND BOYS. SO

FROM-ICE OLD SAN-TA THAT YOU'LL DO THE THINGS THAT YOUR MOM-MY WANTS YOU TO, AND

HE WILL MAKE ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE, DEAR OLD SAN-TA CLAUS. CLAUS.

Dear Old Santa Claus-3



Songwriter Henry Gordon

Mass. Member Pens Christmas Song

Once again we're afforded a glimpse into the exciting world that working people create outside of their work-a-day lives—the world of basement hobby shops, attic art studios and other centers of part-time creative effort. Henry Gordon, a member of RWDSU Local 591 employed at the Evans Case Co. in No. Attleboro, Mass., wrote the lyrics and music for the song above, one of 100 original songs he's been writing on and off for more than 10 years.

Henry's a silk screen technician at Evans Case, producer of the well-known cigaret lighters and other smart smoking accessories. He does the delicate work of putting fine designs on Evans products. He manages to apply the artistic techniques he uses on the job to his song-writing efforts as well, designing and printing his own sheet music covers. The Gordon family, which includes wife Shirley and 9-month-old Heather, shares in the fun of music.

Hank has sold a few singing commercials to the local radio station. Although nation-wide fame has yet to greet his songs, he has satisfaction in the joy of creation itself. "It's my hobby," he says, "and I love it."